

CHAILEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1919.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 49,975 acres |
| Population 1911 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12,771 |
| „ 1919 (estimated) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10,530 |
| Inhabited Houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,712 |
| Average number of persons per house, 1911 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.73 |

The District is a large and scattered one, being about fourteen miles from end to end, and, with the exception of various groups, agricultural in character. Of these groups the part of Wivelsfield adjoining Haywards Heath is urban in character, and there are the considerable villages of Barcombe, Chailey, Ditchling, Glynde, Newick, Plumpton, Ringmer and Firle.

The subsoil is varied, chalk, alluvium, clay and sand all being found.

There is no occupation in the district which has an injurious effect on the public health, and there are no offensive trades carried on.

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the year was £1,352 12s. 0d.

There are no general Hospitals in the area, but the needs of the population are met by the Hospitals at Brighton, Lewes and Haywards Heath, and the Council subscribes £15 15s. 0d. to Hospitals.

The Council has provided an Isolation Hospital at Chailey to which scarlet fever and diphtheria are normally admitted, other diseases being admitted if required, subject to the necessary accommodation being available. No charge is made to patients either for maintenance, or medical attention by myself as Medical Superintendent, but they can have their own doctors should they so desire.

The Joint Smallpox Hospital is situated at Sedgbrook, Chailey, and is available for any cases that may arise.

STATISTICS.

| Year. | Population. | Nett Births. | | Nett Deaths. | | | |
|-------|-------------|--------------|-------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------|
| | | Number. | Rate. | Under 1 year. | | At all ages. | |
| | | | | Number. | Rate per 1000 Births. | Number. | Rate. |
| 1915 | 10,699 | 187 | 17.5 | 11 | 58.8 | 138 | 12.7 |
| 1916 | 10,202 | 166 | 16.2 | 5 | 30.1 | 131 | 12.8 |
| 1917 | 9,990 | 159 | 14.3 | 8 | 50.3 | 143 | 14.3 |
| 1918 | 10,020 | 143 | 14.3 | 9 | 62.9 | 164 | 16.3 |
| 1919 | 10,530 | 149 | 14.2 | 11 | 73.8 | 153 | 14.5 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Measles and German Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Enteric | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Dysentery | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Phthisis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Other Tubercular Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Cancer | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Organic Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Diarrhœa | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Congenital Debility, &c. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Violent Deaths (not suicide) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Other defined Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 |
| Ill-defined or unknown | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 153 |

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Under 1 year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Age 1 and under 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Age 2 „ „ 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Age 5 „ „ 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Age 15 „ „ 25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Age 25 „ „ 45 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Age 45 „ „ 65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Age 65 and upwards | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75 |
| | | | | | | | | 153 |

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR.

| Number. | Cause. | Age. |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Congenital Malformation | 2 months. |
| 3 | Premature Birth | 10-19 hours. |
| 1 | Atelectasis | 1 day. |
| 1 | Injury at Birth | 6 hours. |
| 1 | Congenital Syphilis | 9 days. |
| 2 | Pneumonia | 2-4 months. |
| 1 | Overlying | 5 months. |
| 1 | Murder | New-born. |

The Influenza deaths were during the last part of the epidemic, from January to April, and the ages at death were, 1, 1, 2, 16, 16, 31, 45, 52 years, thus bearing out the experience that influenza is not a fatal disease among aged people.

The Death Rate from—

| | | |
|---------------|-----|------|
| Cancer | ... | 1.9 |
| Heart Disease | ... | 2.56 |
| Phthisis | ... | 1.04 |

WATER.

The Mid-Sussex Water Co. supplies part of Wivelsfield, the Burgess Hill Water Co. parts of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston. In Barcombe, Glynde, Ringmer and Firle water is supplied to most of the houses in the villages from private supplies, the rest of the area being dependent on wells, the water in which seems in most cases to be satisfactory.

In the neighbourhood of Wivelsfield Church the water is not satisfactory, several of the wells being polluted.

These have been closed, a well of good quality being available for the cottages affected and at a short distance. The question of a different supply for this block of dwellings is in hand.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no evidence of any gross pollution in the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are waterborne systems in Ditchling, Newick, Firle, Ringmer, and for the Union House with the Chailey Isolation Hospital. These all work quite satisfactorily and are under the control of the Council. At Glynde there is a private system which is satisfactory also.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Throughout the rest of the district earth closets, pails, privies or water-closets with cesspools are in use, and any accidental nuisance that may arise is dealt with.

SCAVENGING.

At present scavenging is only carried out at Ditchling, where the system of cartage seems sufficient. There is no general scheme for emptying cesspools, this being left to private enterprise.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Harry Weller, has furnished me with the following report as to his work :—

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Cowsheds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 115 |
| Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 |
| Sewage Outfalls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 206 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Factory Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Samples of water for analysis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Schools in the area is good, but the water supply in one of them has been under observation, in connection with the Wivelsfield cottages mentioned above, and this matter is in hand.

Two schools were closed in the initial stages of an outbreak of infectious disease. The notifications received from the various schools are of considerable use in the first cases of disease, but not so useful afterwards.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk produced is of good quality and arrangements for its distribution adequate. No cattle have been reported as tuberculous, and there have been no cases of milk being found tuberculous.

150 inspections have been made of the cowsheds, and the dairies inspections number 12.

The slaughterhouses in the district have been inspected to the extent of 50 visits and are in general well kept.

There are no fixed arrangements for inspection of meat at the time of slaughter.

The Council is not an authority under the " Milk (Mothers and Children) Order," nor under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

With the exception of the prevalence of influenza in the early part of the year there has been very little notifiable disease. Of the 62 cases notified, 43 were from one institution, including all the dysentery and 17 of the pneumonias.

Diphtheria antitoxin is always kept in stock for use by any practitioner, and swabs from suspected cases are examined free of expense, every doctor in the area having been supplied with a swab.

Notified cases are visited by myself or the inspector, and swabs are taken when necessary.

The notification of tuberculosis appears to be properly carried out, but occasionally a death is reported from this disease in which there has been no previous notification.

SMALL-POX.

As there has been no case, no vaccinations have been performed by the M.O.H. in that capacity.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

No cases of Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia neonatorum, and no cases notified of infectious disease in expectant or parturient women.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff consists of the M.O.H. and one inspector of nuisances.

The Hospital staff at Chailey consists of one nurse-matron, one assistant nurse, maid and porter, with outside help for laundry, &c., as required.

There are two blocks of two wards each, with separate kitchens for each block, providing 16 beds in all. Except in epidemics the accommodation is sufficient for the area which it has to serve. The Hospital is good, the Council assist me in every possible way in looking after it, and the nursing is being admirably carried out.

In 1919 the admissions were 8 scarlets and 7 diphtherias. There have been no "return" cases.

The M.O.H. for Chailey R.D.C. is also Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

The Joint Small-pox Hospital at Sedgbrook is available for any cases that may arise. This Hospital, though in the district, does not come under the administration of the Chailey R.D.C.

There are no Local Acts, Special Local Orders, &c., in force, and the only "adoptive" procedure was for the purpose of getting power to make slaughterhouse by-laws, which by-laws are now in action.

Every doctor practising in the area has been supplied with swab and sputum outfit, which are replaced when used, and any chemical or bacterial examination required is made by the Clinical Research Association, free as regards the patient, at the cost of the Council. This arrangement is not so much used as it might be.

HOUSING.

The number of houses at the 1911 census was 2,712, and is now estimated at 2,725. The number of individuals per house in 1911 was 4.73.

The number of houses of which there was a shortage was taken to be :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Glynde | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Firle | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Beddingham | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Barcombe | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Chailey | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Ditchling | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| East Chiltington | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Hamsey | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Newick | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Plumpton | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Ringmer | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| South Malling | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Wivelsfield | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |

These figures were taken as the basis of the Housing Scheme. The census population in 1911 was 12,771, and the estimate for the middle of 1919 was 10,530.

The houses are fully occupied, but no cases of definite overcrowding have come to light.

The general standard of housing throughout the district is fair, but many of the houses are old, damp and badly lighted.

The course pursued with regard to existing houses is to get improvement carried out to such an extent as it possible under present conditions, by agreement in preference to compulsion.

There are no "unhealthy areas" which require dealing with under Part II. of the 1890 Act.

The only by-laws in force in connection with housing are those relating to new buildings. These are quite stringent enough.

In 1914, 1,075 houses were inspected and tabulated, a special inspector being appointed for the purpose. The war caused all this activity to be suspended. The records now require again going through in order to bring them up to date, and the question of the appointment of an additional inspector is under the consideration of the Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for habitation,

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (a) by householders ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | none |
| (b) by Parish Councils | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | none |

Action under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909—

| | |
|--|----|
| (a) Number of houses inspected under and for the purpose of the section | 12 |
| (b) Number of houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation | 1 |
| (c) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders | 11 |

Action under Sec. 28 of the Housing Act, 1919—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (a) Number of orders for repairs issued | ... | ... | ... | ... | none |
| (b) Number of cases in which repairs carried out by Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | none |
| (c) Number of houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction | ... | ... | ... | ... | none |

Closing Orders—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (a) Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (b) Number of Closing Orders made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (c) Number of houses in which Closing Orders were determined on the houses being made fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | none |

Demolition Orders—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (a) Number of Demolition Orders made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | none |

Number of houses demolished voluntarily ... none
Obstructive buildings ... none

Staff engaged in housing work :—

M.O.H. and Inspector of Nuisances.

W. A. DOW, M.D., D.P.H.

